

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/687,205

Applicant(s)

BRANCHEREAU, BERNARD

Examiner

Vishal Patel

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/26/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 5-6, 8-9 and 11, renumbered as 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7, respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Read on 12/5/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A dynamic seal for a rotary shaft comprising a one-piece sleeve for being constrained in rotation directly on the shaft, the sleeve having a first portion disposed parallel to the shaft and a second portion forming an annular collar extending either radially from or parallel to the first portion, and an annular lip of PTFE polymer having a low coefficient of friction to come into sliding rotary contact with a stationary casing surrounding said shaft so that said dynamic seal provides sealing between said shaft and said casing, wherein said dynamic seal further comprises an annular encoder element of magnetizable polymer ~~presenting at least one polarized mark,~~ wherein the encoder element includes a first annular face and a second annular face, the first annular face bonded directly to the annular collar or to the annular collar and the first portion, the second annular face having an first surface and a second surface, wherein the first surface presents a circular track provided with polarized marks formed by sectors with alternating north and south polarization, and wherein the annular lip is bonded directly to the second surface, the first surface and the second surface being either

~~parallel or perpendicular to one another said encoder element being secured to said sleeve and having at least one annular surface to which said lip is bonded, and said lip being made of PTFE and wherein said lip is bonded directly to the annular surface of the encoder element.~~

2. (Previously presented) A seal according to claim 1, wherein the encoder element is made of elastoferite.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) A seal according to claim 1, wherein the ~~annular~~ second surface of the encoder element extends radially.

6. (Currently Amended) A seal according to claim 1, ~~wherein the encoder element is bonded directly to the sleeve, said sleeve being made of metal.~~

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A seal according to claim ~~7~~ 1, wherein the encoder element presents a first annular face of the encoder element faces facing radially inwards which ~~and~~ is bonded directly to an outside wall of the first portion of the longitudinally-extending sleeve, and wherein the a second annular face facing of the encoder element faces radially outwards, wherein the first surface having the circular track is formed on the radially outwards facing second annular face, the first and second annular faces being parallel to one another on which the track provided with polarized marks is formed.

9. (Previously presented) A seal according to claim 8, wherein the second annular face presents a portion extending along a fraction of the shaft which is not

surrounded by the stationary casing, the track provided with polarized marks being formed on said portion.

10. (Cancel)

11. (Original) A device comprising a rotary shaft, a casing filled with liquid in which the rotary shaft penetrates, and a dynamic seal according to claim 1 having its sleeve constrained to rotate with the rotary shaft and having its sealing lip in sliding contact with the casing, thereby providing sealing between said shaft and said casing.

12-19. (Cancelled)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishal Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7060. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am to 8:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia L. Engle can be reached on 571-272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VP
December 5, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vishal Patel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vishal Patel
Primary Examiner
Tech. Center 3600